

II. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

A. OVERVIEW

Desautel Browning Law, LLC (hereinafter, the “Firm” or the “Applicant”) is pleased to submit this proposal for legal services to the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (“EERMC”). Attorney Marisa Desautel’s (hereinafter, “Attorney Desautel”) practice and core business centers within the environmental, energy, and utilities legal practice, with demonstrated experience providing previous representation and legal advice to the EERMC, comparable bodies that meet similar legal issues, as well as private sector clients. Attorney Kerin Browning’s (hereinafter, “Attorney Browning,” or the “Applicant”) practice and core business centers on real estate development and environmental law with an emphasis on zoning, land use, development rights, and analysis of property development.

Prior to opening her own practice, Attorney Desautel served as Senior Legal Counsel for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (“RIDEM”) for nearly eight (8) years, and has nine (9) years of energy and environmental consulting experience. Attorney Desautel will serve as the lead for the scope of services discussed in Section III below. Sections II.A and II.C detail Attorney Desautel’s knowledge of the unique subject matter, relevant experience, qualifications, and her proficient understanding of the legal services sought by the EERMC.

The EERMC’s enabling legislation, the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Management Council Act, codified at R.I.G.L. §42-140.1-1, *et seq.*, outlines the Council’s statutory obligations with respect to developing, recommending, and monitoring plans, programs, and standards for energy conservation, efficiency and diversification. R.I.G.L. §42-149.1-5, also requires that the EERMC submit annual reports to Rhode Island’s General Assembly regarding EERMC’s activities; provide advice and counsel to distribution companies; participate in proceedings before the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (“RIPUC”); and work closely with the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (“RIOER”) to develop and recommend policies, standards, energy procurement as well as sustainability and other plans, among other statutorily mandated tasks.

Attorney Desautel has had the pleasure of representing EERMC’s interests for nearly eight (8) years preceding this proposal from 2015-2023. Consequently, Attorney Desautel possesses an advanced and comprehensive understanding of the EERMC’s requested scope of work; its internal policies and rules; and its statutory obligations related to state law, including the state’s Open Meetings Act, the Access to Public Records Act, and state procurement laws. Moreover, the Applicant is familiar with, and well equipped for, the day-to-day requests, legal issues, tasks, and counseling that may arise from the Council and its members.

After a review of Attorney Desautel’s previous work on behalf of the EERMC, a variety of the EERMC’s past meeting minutes, and several RIPUC dockets, it is her understanding that, in the following calendar year, the EERMC will request detailed reviews of documents, including

legal opinions on the EERMC’s Annual Report and Energy Savings Targets; Data Requests from the RIPUC and other bodies; and National Grid’s Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plans, among others. Additionally, the Applicant anticipates to periodically work in conjunction with state and regional bodies such as RIPUC, RIOER, and the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.

The EERMC’s Request for Proposal’s current Scope of Services includes tasks from other sections of Rhode Island General Laws, such as R.I.G.L. § 39-1-27.7; it is therefore the Applicant’s understanding that they may be responsible for providing legal counsel and representation for any of the enumerated responsibilities and obligations of the EERMC as detailed in R.I.G.L. §§39-1-27.7, 42-140.1-3, 42-140.1-5, and 42-140.1-6.

B. WORK PLAN

To ensure a comprehensive and thorough response, the following section of this document reproduces the language of the EERMC’s Scope of Work and provides the Applicant’s reply immediately thereafter.

“Represent and advise the EERMC on all legal matters pertaining to its statutory obligations where appropriate and necessary.”

The EERMC’s statutory obligations can be found in R.I.G.L. §§39-1-27.7, 42-140.1-3, 42-140.1-5, and 42-140.1-6. In this regard, Desautel Browning Law Law will provide legal representation and advice to the EERMC relating to any and all reports, findings, and recommendations made to the RIPUC; any and all public review meetings; the evaluation and implementation of plans, programs and standards; the submittal of EERMC’s annual reports to the state legislature; participation in RIPUC proceedings; any reports concerning the state’s energy needs, usage, supplies, and efficiency; the EERMC’s bylaws, committees, election and appointment of officers, and employment of consultants pursuant to R.I.G.L. §42-140.1-6; and grant and loan administration.

DELIVERABLES:

1. Representation and appearance on behalf of the EERMC, as necessary, at any Public Utilities Commission proceedings, in accordance with R.I.G.L. §39-1-27.7.
2. Attendance, as requested, at any EERMC monthly meeting.
3. Preparation and presentation of legal advice on EERMC matters.
4. Conducting legal research, drafting legal memoranda, providing legal advice and counsel on any appropriate issue, as requested.

“Prepare and provide legal interpretations on all legislative mandates including, but not limited to, energy efficiency, renewable energy and distributed generation, upon request.”

The legislative mandates are developed from the statutes referenced in Section II.A, above. As such, if awarded this contract, the Applicant shall continue to provide both verbal and legal

interpretations and written memoranda on any topic upon EERMC’s request, including, but not limited to, those listed in the preceding section. Further, these legal interpretations can be supplied to the EERMC in any format requested; such as searchable electronic documents, hardcopies, and/or attendance and presentation at any EERMC meeting.

Mirroring her request from Attorney Desautel’s previous EERMC services, Desautel Browning Law would respectfully ask for a fourteen (14) day advance notice of any such assignment, in order to ensure adequate time for research and presentment. However, in the event that the EERMC requires an exigent legal interpretation, the Applicant shall continue to use her best efforts to provide a proficient response in a timely manner.

Due to Attorney Desautel’s recent and historical representation of the EERMC, the Applicant has an extensive working knowledge of the legal services in this task. Desautel Browning Law represents various clients, including the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture, with similar work tasks. Attorney Desautel is often asked to provide, legislators, council members, state agencies, agency Directors, and their supporting staff with legal opinions on statutory considerations, internal policies, agency regulations, and technical subject matter.

DELIVERABLES:

1. Legal research into any statutory obligation of the EERMC, as requested.
2. Upon request, verbal and written (in any format) legal opinions and memoranda regarding statutory obligations of the EERMC.
3. Upon request, evaluation of and recommendations for EERMC plans and programs.
4. Question and answer session at any monthly meeting in regards to Attorney Desautel’s deliverables for these tasks.

“As directed by the EERMC, review policies developed by the EERMC and/ or its Consultant Team on a range of issues germane to the EERMC’s statutory authority including, but not limited to, triennial and annual energy efficiency and system reliability plan development and implementation; efficiency and system reliability standards development; energy efficiency savings targets; evaluation, monitoring, and verification; financing; and performance incentives, as needed.”

Review of policies related to any of the topics contained in this task would be carried out to ensure compliance with state law, including the EERMC’s enabling act. Under that statute, any policy adopted by the EERMC must promote the control of energy costs and must adhere to the “comprehensive, public and stakeholder-driven” purposes assigned to the EERMC. R.I.G.L. §42-140.1-2(c). Desautel Browning Law shall continue to review any policy of the EERMC to determine compliance with the EERMC’s “Powers and duties” enumerated in R.I.G.L. §42-140.1-5.

Aside from her first-hand experience with these tasks, Attorney Desautel gained similar proficiencies providing legal advice to the RIDEM concerning the Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas Initiative (“RGGI”), codified at R.I.G.L. §23-82-1, *et seq.* There, she compared the RGGI Model Rule to RIDEM’s regulations promulgated under R.I.G.L. §23-82-4. She also participated in the initial RGGI, Inc. meetings; ensured ongoing regulatory compliance with the program; and provided legal advice concerning allocation of auction funds. Further, during this project, the Applicant worked in consultation with the EERMC and RIOER.

DELIVERABLES:

1. Legal research and review/analysis, upon request, of EERMC policy.
2. Written comments on and/or revisions to any EERMC (and/or Consultant-drafted) draft and current policies.
3. Question and answer session at any monthly meeting in regards to Attorney Desautel’s comments and revisions on these policies.

“Provide written responses to any information requests from third parties upon the request of the EERMC.”

As the EERMC membership is likely aware, the EERMC is not a “public body,” as defined by the Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act, R.I.G.L. §38-2-1, *et seq.*, because the EERMC acts in an advisory capacity, and does not exercise a “government function.” R.I.G.L. § 38-2-2(1). However, according to the purposes listed on its website, the EERMC is dedicated to providing “consistent, comprehensive, informed and publicly accountable stakeholder involvement in energy efficiency, conservation and resource development.” Therefore, despite the inapplicability of the processes and deadlines mandated by R.I.G.L. §38-2-3, Desautel Browning Law shall continue to provide efficient and timely responses to public inquiry.

Moreover, Attorney Desautel’s legal experience with inquiries from the public and third parties spans almost thirteen (13) years, and stems from not only Rhode Island Access to Public Records Act requests, but also from the news media, concerned citizens, stakeholders, and opposing counsel (either informally, or through issuance of a subpoena).

Although the EERMC’s minutes are accessible on line, Desautel Browning Law anticipates providing assistance with drafting and/or reviewing written responses to other inquiries, including requests to review any legal memoranda or legal advice rendered during the scope of representation. Other information requests would be processed on a case-by-case basis, depending upon the nature of the request. Further, Desautel Browning Law will work with members of the EERMC, Consultants, and other necessary parties to formulate appropriate responses.

DELIVERABLES:

1. Review of information requests to narrow scope of search.
2. Assistance with search and retrieval of responsive documents.

- | |
|---|
| 3. Written responses to any information requests, as directed by the EERMC. |
| 4. Maintenance of a file containing all working papers concerning information requests and responses thereto. |

“Upon request by the EERMC, attend EERMC meetings, Executive Committee meetings, Demand Collaborative Subcommittee meetings, System Reliability Subcommittee meetings and other ad hoc committees that may be formed, as needed.”

From her service to the EERMC, Attorney Desautel is familiar with the council’s representatives and has interacted with them during council meetings. During her attendance at EERMC meetings, the Applicant provided counsel to EERMC members and presented on various legal topics.

Further, the EERMC is a “public body,” as defined by the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act at R.I.G.L. § 42-46-2(3). Therefore, Desautel Browning Law shall continue to provide advice on topics related to that act, including the procedures for posting notice of any EERMC meetings, meeting minutes, voting processes, and the requirements for holding executive sessions. R.I.G.L. §42-46-4 through 42-46-7.

DELIVERABLES:

- | |
|--|
| 1. Travel to and attendance at monthly (or more frequent) meetings, as necessary. |
| 2. Review of EERMC process to ensure compliance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act. |
| 3. Legal advice regarding items #1 and #2, if necessary. |

“Represent the EERMC at all relevant regulatory proceedings conducted by the PUC, including, but not limited to, evidentiary hearings, technical sessions, and open meetings, as needed.”

The RIPUC operates under the requirements of its enabling act, as well as regulations promulgated thereunder, R.I.G.L. §§39-1-3 and 39-1-11; and the Applicant’s representation of the EERMC with regard to evidentiary hearings at the RIPUC must conform to Rules 1.20 and 1.22 of the RIPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure. Further, Desautel Browning Law’s representation with regard to technical sessions and open meetings must comply with the procedures in Rules 1.2 and 1.4. Compliance with the RIPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure is mandatory for any party appearing there. From her capacities with the Town of Middletown, RIDEM, and the EEMRC, Attorney Desautel is proficient with the RIPUC’s procedural rules. A large portion of the Applicant’s practice with RIDEM and the EERMC concerned evidentiary hearings, technical sessions, and open meetings at various venues and administrative forums. As counsel to the EERMC, Desautel Browning Law will continue to deliver the same skill sets with respect to regulatory proceedings before the RIPUC.

DELIVERABLES:

1. Entries of Appearance at Public Utilities Commission proceedings, as needed.
2. Travel to, attendance at and preparation of materials for Public Utilities Commission Prehearing Conferences, as required by R.I.G.L. §39-1-12.
3. Witness preparation and other attorney-client communications with regard to subject matter in anticipation of Public Utilities Commission proceedings.
4. Observation of the Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.
5. Travel to, attendance at and representation of the EERMC at any and all meetings and hearings of the Public Utilities Commission, as needed.

“Assist in the preparation, development, and delivery of testimony, data requests, and other regulatory support materials necessitated by relevant PUC proceedings, as necessary.”

As discussed in Section III.F, above, all proceedings in front of the Public Utilities Commission are governed by its Rules of Practice and Procedure. Although the EERMC's appearances are in the nature of an advisory capacity, the materials submitted to the Commission in conjunction therewith must be thoroughly reviewed and prepared in accordance with Rules 1.5-1.7 (governing computation of time, motions for continuances, service of process, etc.) and 1.20-1.22 (governing delivery of testimony, rules of evidence, admission of exhibits, etc.) of the RIPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure.

While the subject matter of the testimony, data requests and other materials will be technical, its presentment will be procedural and will be subject to objection by any opposing party involved in the proceeding. Attorney Desautel has eighteen (18) years of fast-paced, high-volume litigation experience with these exact issues in similar venues, ten (10) years of practice before the RIPUC, and is familiar with the work necessary to prepare and submit evidence in the context of a regulatory proceeding.

DELIVERABLES:

1. Meetings with EERMC members and/or Consultants, as necessary, to compile information and begin preparation of documents for this task.
2. Assist with the creation of draft and final documents and other materials for submittal to the Public Utilities Commission.
3. Travel to, attendance at and preparation of materials for Public Utilities Commission Prehearing Conferences, as required by R.I.G.L. §39-1-12.
4. Witness preparation and other attorney-client communications with regard to subject matter in anticipation of Public Utilities Commission proceedings.
5. Travel to and attendance at Public Utilities Commission hearings, as needed.

- | |
|--|
| 6. Entries of Appearance for delivery of evidence at Public Utilities Commission proceedings, as needed. |
| 7. Observation of the Public Utilities Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. |

“Provide legal support and representation with respect to relevant state and regional entities, as requested by the EERMC.”

From Attorney Desautel’s representation of the EERMC, Desautel Browning Law understands that the “state and regional entities” included in this task are as the RIPUC, the General Assembly, the RIOER, National Grid, and representatives from the business, residential, low income, building, and environmental communities.

The Applicant is very familiar with the type of legal support and representation required for interaction with state and regional entities, as they undertook representation of past clients, including the EERMC, appearing in front of departments of federal government, state government, and regional authorities in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, as well as various stakeholder and interest groups.

DELIVERABLES:

- | |
|--|
| 1. Preparation for appearances at meetings and proceedings between the EERMC members and members from state and regional entities. This may include, but not be limited to: legal research, drafting of legal memoranda, and drafting and filing of pleadings and other documentation. |
| 2. Client meetings with the EERMC to prepare for any required representation. |

“Represent the EERMC on all other matters necessary to advance the statutory responsibilities of the EERMC, as directed.”

“Provide other legal services on an as needed basis.”

The Applicant groups these tasks together, as they will in similar legal work product and will be performed at the EERMC’s direction. Attorney Desautel’s previous experience with the EERMC has given her a clear idea of what “necessary” additional legal services will present themselves over the course of the contract period. She predicts that these services will continue to include client meetings, legal research and analysis, attendance at EERMC meetings, and review of technical data.

DELIVERABLES:

- | |
|---|
| 1. Travel to and attendance at EERMC meetings and other necessary proceedings, as requested. |
| 2. Legal research, drafting legal memoranda, providing legal opinions, attorney-client communications, and legal/statutory interpretations. |

C. COMPANY PROFILE

The Firm is comprised of Partners Marisa Desautel and Kerin Browning, Senior Associate Attorney Michelle Hawes, Associate Attorney Andrew Spaulding, and Of Counsel Patrick Sullivan.

Attorney Desautel has been practicing law in Rhode Island and Massachusetts since 2006. Her current practice involves all aspects of civil litigation, public law, energy and environmental law and regulation, utilities law and regulation, and land use. Further, she has experience in representing similar bodies, acting as former Legal Counsel to the Rhode Island Board of Certification of Wastewater Treatment Facility Operators, and currently serving as Town Solicitor to various municipalities on environmental, energy, public utility, and zoning matters. Attorney Desautel started her second year as legal counsel to the Rhode Island Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

Attorney Browning has twenty (20) years of experience advising large and small real estate developers, property owners, renewable energy firms, and other businesses on land use issues, planning and zoning regulations, and environmental matters. She has extensive experience in Rhode Island state and local government. She has overseen permitting for major development projects. She is well versed in the practices and procedures of state and local approval agencies. She evaluates development proposals with clients early in the process and by doing continues to shape successful property development on behalf of clients in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

Attorney Hawes has been practicing law in Rhode Island for over ten (10) years. Attorney Hawes has been admitted to the bar in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, as well as the United States District Court of Rhode Island and United States District Court of Massachusetts. She has a special interest in appellate advocacy, especially since the time she spent in an externship at the Rhode Island Supreme Court. She has experience in many different areas of civil litigation, including product liability, personal injury, corporate collection practice, and property disputes.

Attorney Spaulding recently graduated from the Roger Williams School of Law in 2023 and was admitted to the State of Rhode Island bar the same year. His role with the Firm includes legal research and writing, litigation preparation, discovery matters, drafting of pleadings, and assistance with regulatory filings.

D. RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

The Firm has a history of successful representation of clients in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, before the RIPUC, before state and federal courts, both as prosecutor and defense counsel; and before the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and the District of Columbia Circuit. Relevant experience includes administrative hearings, Superior Court trials, arguments and hearings, and Rhode Island Supreme Court and federal court practice.

In her capacity as Senior Legal Counsel to the RIDEM for 8 years, Attorney Desautel worked very closely with environmental and regulatory professionals, and gained an advanced and complex knowledge of state government; its energy, environmental, and efficiency objectives and goals; and the regulatory process that promotes them. Providing legal counsel to RIDEM included evidentiary presentations, legal opinions on compliance with the state's Open Meetings Act and Access to Public Records Act.

Currently, the Applicant represents the Town of Middletown and Town of New Shoreham on matters related to environmental protection, municipal zoning, and public utilities. As counsel to the Town, the Firm assists staff matters before the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Review, Energy Facilities Siting Board, and RIPUC.

Finally, the Applicant gained her most relevant experience as a result of representing the EERMC for the past eight (8) years, beginning April 1, 2015. During her time with EERMC, Attorney Desautel was actively involved in regulatory filings with the RIPUC, such as recommendations concerning National Grid's one-year and three-year Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plans; statutory filings, such as EERMC's Annual Report and Energy Savings Targets; regular and executive EERMC meetings; as well as providing day-to-day legal advice on an as-needed basis.

E. EXAMPLES OF PRIOR WORK

In response to Section 4.II.E of the EERMC's Request for Proposals; below, the Applicant addresses three (3) of the above-referenced dockets more comprehensively, and details her involvement with the same.

In particular, Attorney Desautel represented the EERMC in RIPUC dockets #4568, regarding National Grid's Rate Design pursuant to R.I.G.L. §39-26.6-24; #4580, #4581, #4654, #4655, #4755, and #4756, regarding National Grid's 2016, 2017, and 2018 Energy Efficiency Program Plan and System Reliability Procurement Report; #4600, regarding the RIPUC's investigation into the changing electric distribution system; #4684, regarding the EERMC's proposed Energy Efficiency Savings Targets; #5076, regarding the 2021-2023 Energy Efficiency Program Plan & 2021 Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plan; #5080, regarding National Grid's System Reliability Procurement 2021-2023 Three-Year Plan; #5189, regarding the 2022 annual energy efficiency plan; #4600-A, regarding recommendations to a recent RIPUC guidance document; #22-05-EE, regarding an investigation of The Narragansett Electric Co. by the RIPUC relating to past payment of shareholder incentive; #22-33-EE, regarding The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan; #22-01-NG, regarding an Investigation into the future of the regulated gas distribution business in RI in Light of the Act on Climate; #22-42-NG, regarding an Advisory Opinion to Energy Facility Siting Board Regarding The Narragansett Electric Co. Application to Construct LNG Vaporization Facility; #23-35-EE,

regarding The Narragansett Electric Co. d/b/a Rhode Island Energy's 2024-2026 Energy Efficiency Three-year plan and Annual Energy Efficiency Plan for 2024;

In RIPUC docket #4568, Attorney Desautel represented the EERMC during RIPUC's review of National Grid's electric distribution rate design and cost allocation in light of net metering and the changing distribution system. RIPUC's goal was to achieve a revenue neutral reallocation of rates. Pursuant to RIPUC's goals and EERMC's statutory rights and interest in the docket, Attorney Desautel filed a motion to intervene on behalf of EERMC. EERMC was especially interested in the RIPUC's consideration of rate design and distribution cost allocation; appropriate cost responsibility; and the contributions to operation, maintenance, and investment in the distribution that was relied upon by National Grid's customers. In her representation of EERMC in this docket, the Applicant prepared, developed, and submitted the testimony of Scudder Parker in opposition of National Grid's proposed rate design. She also prepared and submitted the surrebuttal testimony of Mr. Parker in response to National Grid's rebuttal testimony of Peter Zschokke, Jeanne Lloyd, and Timothy Roughan.

In dockets #4654 and #4655, the Applicant represented the EERMC during the RIPUC's consideration of National Grid's 2017 Energy Efficiency Program Plan and System Reliability Procurement Report pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 39-1-27.7 and the RIPUC's Standards for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Procurement. The tasks associated with the EERMC, and the settlement it came to with National Grid and other interested third-parties, included negotiations, regulatory filings, and presentation at the RIPUC. In preparation for her appearance in front of the RIPUC, the Applicant reviewed National Grid's 2017 Plan for compliance with the least cost procurement standards in R.I.G.L. §39-2-1.2; coordinated with the EERMC's consultant team; and advised EERMC as to her findings and conclusions. She also analyzed and made recommendations on EERMC's behalf in regard to rate increases and the cost-effectiveness within the plan. Further, with regard to EERMC's statutory duties, the Applicant assisted with the development, preparation, and submission of EERMC's Cost-Effectiveness Report which solidified the Plan's compliance with state statutes and regulations for the RIPUC.

In docket #4600, Attorney Desautel represented the EERMC during the RIPUC's investigation into the electric distribution system and the fairness of rates and rate designs in light of the Renewable Energy Growth Program, at R.I.G.L. §39-26.6-1, et seq. On February 5, 2016, the RIPUC issued a memorandum to stakeholders to solicit comments on its investigation. Attorney Desautel assisted with compiling, preparing, and submitting EERMC's comments to the RIPUC. After the docket commenced, the RIPUC issued notice of the docket and invited stakeholders to participate in the same. Attorney Desautel also prepared and submitted EERMC's application for membership in the Stakeholder's Working Group.

F. REFERENCE INFORMATION

Shawn Brown, Town Administrator, Town of Middletown - sbrown@middletownri.com, (401) 849-2898 (with permission)

Maryanne Crawford, Town Manager, Town of New Shoreham - mcrawford@newshorehamri.gov, (401) 466-3210

G. IDENTIFICATION OF STAFF AND SUBCONTRACTORS

Only listed attorneys including Attorney Desautel, Attorney Browning, Attorney Hawes, and Attorney Spaulding are members of the team for purposes of this proposal.

H. STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Attorney Desautel will be responsible for all attendance at meetings, representation and appearances at the RIPUC, and providing legal advice.

Attorney Spaulding will be responsible for conducting some legal research and drafting basic pleadings, compiling documents for filings, and providing office support as needed.

I. STAFF EXPERIENCE

Attorney Desautel's experience is highlighted throughout this response and her resume is attached.

Mr. Spaulding is a graduate of Roger Williams University Law School, and has served the Firm in both intern and full-time employee capacities; his resume is attached. During his tenure at law school, Mr. Spaulding focused his curriculum in the areas of environmental law and land use and ocean and coastal policy. Further, from his time with the Firm, he has gained a proficient understanding of Rhode Island environmental and energy policy, as well as the regulatory bodies that promulgate the same. Before graduating law school and joining the Firm on a full-time basis, Mr. Spaulding interned with the Marine Affairs Institute and the RI Coastal Resources Management Council. He has also donated time researching issues for Save the Bay's legal team.

J./K./L. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, LITIGATION & INVESTIGATION

The Applicant avers that neither she, nor her supporting staff, have any potential conflicts of interest. Attorney Desautel has never provided legal or other work to a client engaged in delivering energy services or products within the State of Rhode Island, or any other state. Likewise, the Applicant has no close personal ties or contacts with any of the energy companies, developers, or providers. The Applicant also avers that neither she, nor her supporting staff, have been named in any litigation, disputes, claims or complaints, or events of default or other failure to satisfy or fulfill contractual obligations.

Further, the Applicant maintains that neither she, nor her supporting staff are currently under investigation by any governmental agency; and neither her, nor her supporting staff, have

been convicted or found liable for an act involving conspiracy, collusion, impropriety, or any other act prohibited by state or federal law.